

SUMMARY: The document below is an account, likely written by Sir Gilbert Dethick, Garter King of Arms, of the funeral of Oxford's father, John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford, in which Oxford played a prominent role as chief mourner. The account is in a College of Arms manuscript entitled 'The Booke of Buryals of Nobilite'.

According to Dethick's account, the 16th Earl died between eight and nine o'clock on the evening of 3 August 1562, and was buried on 25 August. The same date for his burial, 25 August 1562, is given in BL Harley 897, f. 81. However both the parish register of Castle Hedingham (ERO D/P 48/1/1) and Machyn's *Diary* state that the 16th Earl was buried on 31 August 1562. From the parish register:

John de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, was buried the 31 of August 1562.

From Machyn's *Diary*:

The 31 day of August was buried in Essex the good Earl of Oxford, with 3 Heralds of Arms, Master Garter, Master Lancaster, Master Richmond, with a standard and a great banner of arms and 8 bannerols, helmet crest, target and sword and coat armour, and a hearse with velvet and a pall of velvet, and a 10 dozen of scutcheons, and with many mourners in black, and great moan made for him.

See Nelson, Alan H., *Monstrous Adversary*, (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2003), p. 30 at:

[https://books.google.ca/books?id=ax36vm1CW08C&pg=PA30&lpg=PA30&dq=%22Nelson%22+%22The+Londoner+Henry+Machyn%22&source=bl&ots=a2nEUaXyvw&sig=cIEms2IS-](https://books.google.ca/books?id=ax36vm1CW08C&pg=PA30&lpg=PA30&dq=%22Nelson%22+%22The+Londoner+Henry+Machyn%22&source=bl&ots=a2nEUaXyvw&sig=cIEms2IS-Tg1Ido40uTnoxXX24k&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwizhK_EpejUAhUD4mMKHbOEAYEQ6AEIjAA#v=onepage&q=%22Nelson%22%20%22The%20Londoner%20Henry%20Machyn%22&f=false)

[Tg1Ido40uTnoxXX24k&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwizhK_EpejUAhUD4mMKHbOEAYEQ6AEIjAA#v=onepage&q=%22Nelson%22%20%22The%20Londoner%20Henry%20Machyn%22&f=false.](https://books.google.ca/books?id=ax36vm1CW08C&pg=PA30&lpg=PA30&dq=%22Nelson%22+%22The+Londoner+Henry+Machyn%22&source=bl&ots=a2nEUaXyvw&sig=cIEms2IS-Tg1Ido40uTnoxXX24k&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwizhK_EpejUAhUD4mMKHbOEAYEQ6AEIjAA#v=onepage&q=%22Nelson%22%20%22The%20Londoner%20Henry%20Machyn%22&f=false)

The 16th Earl's death was also later mentioned by Camden in his *Annales Rerum Gestarum Angliae et Hiberniae Regnante Elizabetha (1615 and 1625)*. See Nelson, *supra*, and:

<http://www.philological.bham.ac.uk/camden/15611.html#oxon>

8. Vitam hoc anno naturae reddidit Ioannes Verus comes Oxoniae ex hac illustri prosapia decimus-sexthus, qui ex uxore priore filia Radulphi Nevilli comitis Westmorlandiae Catharinam Edwardi baronis Windesorii coniugem tulit, ex secunda Margareta Goldinga Edwardum Oxoniae comitem, qui patrimonium profligavit, et Mariam Peregrino Bertu baroni Willoughbaeio enuptam.

This year John Vere, the Earl of Oxford, died, the sixteenth of that illustrious house, who by his first wife, daughter to Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmorland, had Katherine, who

was wife to Edward, Baron of Windsor, by his second wife, Margaret Golding, Edward Earl of Oxford, who overthrew and wasted his patrimony, and Mary, who was married to Peregrine Bertie, Baron of Willoughby.

For wills made by the 16th Earl in 1552 and 1562, see BL Stowe Charter 633, and TNA PROB 11/46/247.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE ACCOUNT

For the will, dated 18 January 1580, of the 16th Earl's brother, Aubrey de Vere, see ERO D/AMR 3/281.

For the will of the 16th Earl's brother, Robert de Vere (d.1598), see TNA PROB 11/91/503.

For the nuncupative will of the 16th Earl's brother, Geoffrey de Vere (d.1572), see ERO D/DABW 38/187.

For the 16th Earl's nephew, Robert Darcy, a younger brother of John, 2nd Baron Darcy of Chiche, and son of Thomas (1506-1558), 1st Lord Darcy of Chiche, by the 16th Earl's sister, Elizabeth de Vere (d. 26 December 1565), see his will, TNA PROB 11/51/388.

For the 16th Earl's nephew, Edmund Pyrton (d.1609), husband of Constance Darcy, the daughter of Thomas (1506-1558), 1st Lord Darcy of Chiche, by the 16th Earl's sister, Elizabeth de Vere (d. 26 December 1565), see the will of Robert Darcy, *supra*.

For the 16th Earl's brother-in-law, Sir Thomas Golding (d.1571), see the will of his wife, Elizabeth (nee Roydon) Golding, TNA PROB 11/87/292.

For the 16th Earl's brother-in-law, Henry Golding, see his will, TNA PROB 11/59/98.

For the 16th Earl's brother-in-law, William Golding, see his will, TNA PROB 11/72/210.

For the 16th Earl's brother-in-law, the translator, Arthur Golding (1535/6-1606), see the *ODNB* entry.

For the 16th Earl's friend and executor, Sir John Wentworth (1494-1567) of Gosfield Hall, Essex, see his will, TNA PROB 11/49/288.

For Henry Mackwilliam, see his will, TNA PROB 11/40/37.

For Sir Francis Jobson (born c.1509, d.1573), whose relationship to the 16th Earl is unknown, see the *ODNB* entry. Sir Francis Jobson was the brother-in-law of Leicester's father, John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, and may have been at the 16th Earl's funeral as Leicester's representative.

For Edmund Freake (d.1516–1591), later bishop of Norwich and of Worcester, who preached the 16th Earl’s funeral sermon, see the *ODNB* entry.

For Rooke Greene (d. 9 April 1602), see Huntingdon Library MS El 5870.

For the 16th Earl’s servant, Thomas Gent (d.1593), see the *ODNB* entry.

For the 16th Earl’s servant, John Turner, see his will, TNA PROB 11/61/414.

For Sir Gilbert Dethick (1499/1500-1584), Garter King of Arms, see the *ODNB* entry.

Lancaster Herald at the time was John Cocke, esquire, ‘a confidential servant’ of Leicester’s father, John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, who later entered Leicester’s service. Leicester ‘raised Cocke by his patronage from Portcullis pursuivant to be Lancaster herald’. On 9 May 1580, Cocke married Jane Harcourt. He accompanied Leicester on his expedition to the Low Countries, and died at Amsterdam on 17 March 1585 [=1586?]. He held the office of Lancaster Herald from 13 January 1559 until his death. See Noble, Mark, *A History of the College of Arms*, (London: J. Debrett, 1804), p. 183 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/ahistorycollege00noblgoog#page/n206/mode/2up>.

Richmond Herald at the time was Nicholas Narboone, esquire, who held the office from 1557–1566. See Noble, *supra*, p. 154.

Portcullis Pursuivant at the time was Ralph Langman, who was appointed in 1559 and held the office until 1567. See Noble, *supra*, p. 186.

Several of the 16th Earl’s household officers and servants mentioned in the account below are also mentioned in the 16th Earl’s wills, *supra*.

HERALDIC TERMS USED IN THE ACCOUNT

From the *OED*:

hearse

a. An elaborate framework originally intended to carry a large number of lighted tapers and other decorations over the bier or coffin while placed in the church at the funerals of distinguished persons.

bannerol

a. A small ornamental streamer, e.g. that attached to the lance of a knight; in Heraldry one hanging down from the crook of a crosier, and folding over the staff.

pencil

a. A small pennon or streamer.

escutcheon, scutcheon

a. Heraldry. The shield or shield-shaped surface on which a coat of arms is depicted; also in wider sense, the shield with the armorial bearings; a sculptured or painted representation of this.

majesty

7. A canopy supported on a framework (a hearse) over a bier or coffin in a church.

hatchment

1. An escutcheon or armorial device; esp. a diamond-shaped or (occasionally) square panel or canvas with a deceased person's armorial bearings, affixed to his or her house during mourning and often afterwards placed in a church.

[f. 35r]

[Upper left: Sketch of arms of John de Vere, 16th Earl of Oxford, showing eight coats (1) de Vere, (2) Trussell, (3) Kilrington, (4) de Clare, (5) Sergeaux, (6) Badlesmere, (7) Folliot, (8) Bolebec, surmounted by an Earl's coronet]

The interment of the right noble and puissant John Vere, late Earl of Oxford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Viscount Bulbeck and Lord of Badlesmere, who departed out of this mortal life at his Castle of Hedingham in the county of Essex on Monday in the evening between 8th and 9th of the clock the third day of August in the fourth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc. Anno Domini 1562, for whose interment preparation was made as followeth:

First, after his said departure he was opened, cered and coffined, and then brought into his chapel whereas he was covered with a very rich pall of black velvet embroidered with divers and many arms, the said chapel being hanged with black & garnished with scutcheons of his arms and both his wives' in pale, the first, daughter of Ralph, Earl of Westmoreland, and thother, daughter of Golding, and there was said in the said chapel service every(?) day forenoon and afternoon, and in that manner remained till the time of the funeral.

Item, the said corse resting in manner aforesaid, the executors of the said Earl sent for Garter, Principal King of Arms, for to have his advice for the burial, and also to understand what was to be provided for his estate, the which known, and all things appointed, the said Garter departed again, but before his departure he caused [f. 35v] a hearse to be made in the parish church in the town of Hedingham, the which was made in manner following:

The manner of the hearse and furniture of the church of Hedingham, viz.,

Item, the said church was hanged with black and garnished with scutcheons as aforesaid, and the choir of the said church was hanged and garnished in like manner. At the choir door stood the hearse, the which was in length 12 foot and in breadth 9 foot, in height 11 foot, besides the top, 4-square, having 4 posts, on the which posts stood 4 great scutcheons of paste paper. The top was made with parchments in manner of a spear, and on the very top stood 2 great scutcheons with one crownet. The top of the said hearse was square beneath according to the proportion of the hearse, being covered with black cloth, and on every square 3 scutcheons, and on every parchment pencels of his badges. On the square beneath the said top went a breadth of black velvet round about, and above the upper edge of the said velvet went a row of pencels, and to the nether edge was fastened a valence of black velvet, and at the same a fringe of black silk quarter deep. On the said velvet and valence was fastened scutcheons of buckram in metal. The 4 posts of the said hearse were covered with black velvet, and on each a scutcheon of buckram. Under the roof of the hearse [f. 36r] there was a majesty of taffeta with scutcheons of his arms lined with buckram. The nether part of the hearse was covered with black cloth down to the ground, and without that rail went a rail 4 foot from thother rail, the which was covered also with black cloth and garnished with scutcheons, and between the said rail and the hearse there was set 9 stools covered with black cloth and 18 cushions, 9 to kneel on and 9 to lean on.

The manner of the furniture of the hall with the great chamber of the Castle

Item, the hall, with th' entry of the hall, that is to say, the porch, was hanged with black cloth up to the great chamber door, and in like manner from the said chamber door to the chapel door on each side, and garnished with scutcheons in colour. The great chamber was hanged with fine black cloth [-cloth] & garnished with scutcheons in metal. The church, the Castle, with all places furnished and everything ready, it remained in good order with great cheer(?) till the day of the burial, the which was Tuesday the 25th day of August, on the which day they proceeded to the said burial in manner following:

The manner of the proceeding to the church with the corse

First, two tall yeomen in black coats with black staves in their hands.

Then the ministers of the church.

[f. 36v] Then the standard borne by Mr William Golding in a long gown, his hood on his head.

Then all gentlemen 2 and 2 in long gowns, their hoods on their shoulders.

Then the chaplains of the defunct.

Then the officers of household with their white staves in their hands.

Then the banner of arms borne by Master George Christmas in his long gown, his hood on his head.

Then Portcullis Pursuivant of Arms wearing a coat of the arms of the defunct the right way, bearing the helm and crest, his hood on his head.

Then Lancaster Herald bearing the target, in his coat of arms and his hood on his head.

Then Richmond Herald in like manner bearing the coat of arms.

The Garter, Principal King of Arms, and with him a gentleman usher, his hood on his head.

Then the corse.

[f. 37r]

[Upper part of page: sketches of four different pennons of the 16th Earl's arms surrounding a blank rectangle]

Then the chief mourner, th' Earl of Oxford, his train borne by a gentleman usher, and after them thother mourners 2 and 2:

Mr Aubrey de Vere
Mr Geoffrey de Vere
Sir Thomas Golding
Mr Robert Darcy

Mr Robert de Vere
Sir John Wentworth
Sir Francis Jobson
Mr Henry Mackwilliam

Then after them two yeomen ushers, and after them all the yeomen 2 and 2 in black coats.

And in this order they proceeded to the church, in at the south door for that the west door was closed up by reason of the fall of the steeple, and so to the hearse, where the corse was set upon a table, the which was covered with black cloths(?), [f. 37v] and on the corse was set the helm and crest, the coat of arms, the target and the sword.

Then the mourners were placed, the chief at the head, and on each side four, and without the rails leaned they that bare the bannerols, on each side 4, the standard and the banner holden at the foot. On each side of the hearse kneeled the assistants.

The corse, the mourners and everything set in order, the service began by the choir, but before the beginning of the service Richmond Herald said with a loud voice this prayer following:

Laud and praise be given unto Almighty God, who of his divine goodness hath translated out of this transitory life unto his eternal glory the right noble and puissant John Vere, late Earl of Oxford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Viscount Bulbeck and Lord of Badlesmere.

Item, after this prayer the choir began service, the which proceeded to the pistle and Gospel, and after the Gospel the Creed began, sung in pricksong, and after the Creed the offering began in manner following, viz.:

The manner of the offering

Item, after the Creed, the chief minister turned him, and the mourners stood up within the hearse, and the chief mourner came forth, having before him certain gentlemen, the officers of household, the Officers of Arms, his train borne, and thother mourners following him, went up and offered for the defunct, having a cushion and a carpet laid for him by a gentleman usher, his offering being [f. 38r] delivered unto him by one of the mourners, the best of them, and after the assyse(?) taken off(?) the cushion, the said chief mourner kneeled down and offered, and returned to the hearse again. And after that he had made obeisance to the corse, he went up again, having Garter before him, without his train borne or the other mourners following him, and when he had offered, he stood by the minister on the right hand, and on his right hand stood Garter, Principal [+King?] of Arms.

Then Lancaster Herald delivered the coat of arms unto Mr Aubrey de Vere and Mr Robert de Vere, who with Richmond before them went and offered the same to the minister, and the minister delivered the same to the young Earl, and he delivered it to Garter, who gave it to Lancaster, and he set the same by on a table appointed for the same, and then the said 2 mourners returned to the hearse again.

Then Mr Geoffrey Vere and [-and] Sir John Wentworth offered the sword in like manner as aforesaid, having an herald before them.

The Sir Thomas Golding and Sir Francis Jobson aforesaid the target in like manner.

Then Mr Robert Darcy and Mr Henry Mackwilliam offered the helm and crest in like manner as the rest.

Item, when the hatchments were thus offered, the said mourners offered for themselves money, 2 after 2, having every time an Officer of Arms before them.

Then offered the 4 assistants, having Lancaster before them, 2 after 2.

[f. 38v] Then offered the officers of household, having before them Portcullis Pursuivant, and after them all gentlemen, 2 and 2, and then the yeomen, 2 and [+2?]. The offering done, the sermon began, made by a servant of the said Earl's named Mr Freake, who made an excellent and a learned sermon, well liked and much commended of the hearers.

Item, after the sermon, the service proceeded to th' end, and when the service was done, the mourners went from the church, but before the[y] departed, the standard and the banner was offered by them that bare the same, having Portcullis before them. The mourners went home in this manner: first, all gentlemen, then squires, then the Officers of Arms, then the chief mourner, and thother mourners following him 2 and 2, his train borne by a gentleman usher.

Item, when the mourners were gone, the ministers came down to the hearse, and after divers prayers by them said, the 8 gentlemen that bare the corse took up the same, and carried it to the grave, which was right before the door of the choir. The officers of household followed the corse to the grave. When the corse was put into the vaults(?), and certaynene [sic for 'certain?'] prayers said to the words of 'From dust thou comest and to dust thou most [sic?] return', the officers of household brake their staves [LM: The officers brake their staves] over their heads and cast the same into the grave. Then the gentlemen officers brake their rods in like manner, and the porters their staves. Then the minister said divers prayers, after the which they all departed from the church to the Castle to dinner, and many people also.

[f. 39r] There was given a great dole at the gate both of money, meat and drink. And after dinner the said Officers of Arms went to the church and saw the hatchments set up, and at night they took down the hearse, the which they had for their fees as of antiquity hath been accustomed, with their other fees and duties as hereafter followeth.

And thus endeth the solemnity of the funeral of the said right noble and puissant John Vere, Earl of Oxford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England.

Finis

The names of all such gentlemen and other that bare offices

Assistants to the corse

Mr Pyrton
Mr Sulyard
Mr Eden th' elder
Mr Rooke Greene

That bare the bannerols

Mr Wiseman
 Mr Smythe
 Mr Gent [=Thomas Gent]
 Mr Payne
 Mr Don (or Den?) the younger
 Mr Jermyn
 Mr Felton
 Mr Maxey

Gentlemen officers

Mr John Wiseman
 Mr (blank) Booth [=John Booth]

Officers of Household

Mr Henry Golding, Steward
 Mr Robert Christmas, Treasurer
 Mr (blank) Turner[=John Turner], Comptroller

Gentlemen that bare the corse

Robert Tyrrell
 St John
 Sholdham [=Thomas Sholdham]
 Clippesby [=John Clippesby]
 Barners [=Francis Barners]
 Arthur Golding
 Brewser [=Robert Brewster?]
 Cruchewod

Yeoman officers

Richard Jefferey
 John Lynnet

Porters

Robert Parker
 John Popter [=Potter?]

The painters' charge at the said burial

Item, a standard, 46s 8d
Item, a great banner of arms, 50s
Item, for 8 bannerols, £10 13s 4d
Item, for a coat of arms, 40s
Item, for another coat of arms, 30s
[f. 40r] Item, for a crest, 10s
Item, for a sword, 13s 4d
Item, for a target, 10s
Item, for a helmet, 20s
Item, for the mantles, kurpes(?) & tassels, 26s 8d
Item, for 10 dozen pencels, £5
Item, for 6 great scutcheons, 60s
Item, for 3 dozen scutcheons on buckram in metal, £3 12s
Item, for 4 dozen on paper in metal, £4
Item, for 8 dozen on paper in colour, £5 12s
Item, for a great brass of yiur(?), 4s
Item, for 10 other brasses, 15s(?) 8d
Item, for 10 dozen pencil sticks, 5s(?) 8d
Item, for 10 stands, 10s 8d
Item, a dozen of small scutcheons, 12s

Sum

Liveries and fees to the Officers of Arms

To Garter, Principal King of Arms, for his gown and hood, 6 yards
To him livery for 4 servants, 6 yards
To him for his fee, £10
To him for riding from London to Hedingham and from thence to London two times,
being 168 miles at 12d the mile, £8 8s